

in the carrying out of Local Option legislation as it sometimes is in the carrying out of general State law under which the working out sometimes may be weakest where the necessity for it is strongest. In both Canada and the United States may be found not only citizens who resist or evade law, but officials who are incompetent or worse. These difficulties are not peculiar to the enforcement of prohibitory laws.

Exaggerated Expectations

Sometimes there is disappointment over the results of the no-license method because too much has been expected from that method. It is rarely that the no-license law eliminates drunkenness. The drink appetite will impel confirmed inebriates to almost any subterfuge or method to obtain liquor. The profits of illegal liquor-selling tempt avaricious men to run the risk of the penalties imposed for law violation. Drinking men who can obtain liquor in a license district a few miles away will go there to indulge. When a vote to repeal a no-license law is possible within a short time after the change from license, there is special danger of repeal, because strong interests seek to turn public opinion against the existing law.

Advantages of No-License

Nevertheless, under the no-license method the difficulty of securing drink materially diminishes drunkenness. It is not going too far to say that on the whole the results of the no-license method have fully equalled the expectations of its reasonable advocates. It removes the public temptation, breaks up the treating system, and prevents the formation of drinking habits. It is a decided advantage to the weak-willed inebriate who desires to abstain from strong drink, and to the careless citizen who will drink when drinking is respectable and convenient, but who will not do so at the cost of personal inconvenience, public odium, or risk of being exposed as an abettor of law violation.

It would be easy to produce much testimony from experienced observers and extensive statistics from criminal records to prove that the no-license

method lessens drunkenness and drinking and promotes thrift and prosperity, just as it would be easy to show from similar statistics and by similar evidence that drunkenness will continue where prohibition prevails. In fact, the controversy that generally goes on in contest over the question of the adoption of Local Option by-laws takes the form of statistical statements to show that drunkenness continues under no-license, and that drunkenness is lessened under no-license. Both statements are correct. The facts hereinafter presented are merely specimens of much available evidence.

Facts That Must be Remembered

Comparisons of conditions in license and no-license neighborhoods may be misleading. Statistics concerning police records of drunkenness in different cities are notoriously so. The character of the population, the methods of police authorities, the mode of keeping records and other such varying factors may make a contrast of figures valueless. A comparison between specified units of urban and rural population is also unfair. Even the direct testimony of careful witnesses may be colored by predilections. The comparisons most likely to be instructive are such as are made between the conditions in the same locality under license and under no-license for a reasonable period of time in each case, and the most informing testimony is that of competent observers who have had experience in studying and criticizing social movements and conditions. From the great mass of evidence available concerning the United States, the following facts are selected relating to widely-separated localities in which conditions are very diverse. Some of this information is taken from the Anti-Saloon League's Year Book, published at the League's headquarters in Columbus, Ohio. This annual is a mine of useful information.

Georgia

Georgia is a typical Southern State on the Atlantic seaboard. Prohibition came into force in it on January 1st, 1908, replacing no-license in many districts, and taking effect in a number of cities in which no-license could not